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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/070,908   | 05/04/1998  | MITUNORI SAKAMA      | 0756-1799           | 4942             |
| 31780  | 7590        | 12/21/2004           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| ERIC ROBINSON<br>PMB 955<br>21010 SOUTHBANK ST.<br>POTOMAC FALLS, VA 20165 |             |                      | PADGETT, MARIANNE L |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 1762                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|

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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER |
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20041215

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Appellant's Reply Brief of 12/08/2004 is noted and entered as per office policy.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne L. Padgett whose telephone number is (571) 272-1425. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from about 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive Beck, can be reached on (571) 272-1415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MLP 12/15/04

MARIANNE PADGETT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER